

STATEMENT OF INTENT

International Border Crossings for the San Diego / Tijuana Region
City of San Diego & City of Tijuana

PURPOSE

It is the intention of Mayor Jerry Sanders, City of San Diego, California, United States of America, and Mayor Jorge Ramos Hernandez, City of Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico to cooperate, within the authority of their respective agencies, in bolstering the economic, social and political ties and opportunities of the San Diego/ Tijuana Binational Region by exercising their powers as the elected officials of their prospective municipalities **in advocating for the reduction of border wait times between San Diego and Tijuana.**

THE SIGNATORIES FIND:

WHEREAS, the San Ysidro Port of Entry/ Puerto de Mexico is the busiest land border in the western hemisphere – where over 250,000 people cross *each day*;

WHEREAS, crossings at the San Diego/ Tijuana border are estimated to increase over 50% by 2020; and an increase in vehicle traffic at San Ysidro of up to 70% by 2030;

WHEREAS, an estimated **US\$6 billion** in gross output was **lost** in 2005 due to traffic congestion and border wait times at San Diego land port of entries, resulting in the estimated loss of **51,325 jobs**ⁱ;

WHEREAS, San Diego and Tijuana are inextricably joined through business relations, physical proximities, familial ties and economic dependencies;

WHEREAS, as a federally funded project, the Reconfiguration of the San Ysidro Port of Entry/ Puerto de Mexico is a pressing infrastructure need for the San Diego/ Tijuana border; **NOW THEREFORE**

The undersigned parties are convinced that secure and efficient ports of entry that provide more efficient inspection of goods, ease for people crossing our borders and a reduction of “border wait times,” peaking at no more than 20 minutes in either direction, are critical to the continued well-being of each community and our Binational Region.

This Statement of Intent expresses the commitment of the undersigned toward improving border efficiency and reducing border wait times.

Mayor Jerry Sanders of San Diego and Mayor Jorge Ramos Hernández of Tijuana herein agree to the following:

1. To make, in each respective administration, the port of entries (existing and future) between the San Diego and Tijuana regions a noted priority.
2. To establish, within the administration of each signatory, a working group, task force or other official mechanism, that will meet regularly with its counterpart to facilitate cooperative efforts of planning and advocacy for the reconfiguration of the San Ysidro Port of Entry/ Puerto de Mexico.
3. To establish a work program that specifies the elements necessary to ensure community and local needs are met within federal projects at the San Ysidro Port of Entry/ Puerto de Mexico.
4. To establish a work program that develops a vision by both signatories of the San Ysidro Port of Entry/ Puerto de Mexico crossing and immediate surrounding areas.

5. To develop a process for working with the respective federal inspection agencies, the appropriate federal border authorities, appropriate state roadway authorities and appropriate local land owners and authorities that will be affected by the reconfiguration and operation of the San Ysidro Port of Entry/ Puerto de Mexico.

This Statement of Intent shall serve solely as a guide and statement of commitment by each of the signing parties to define their respective intentions and policies. It does not authorize specific projects, nor does it authorize funding for specific projects. This Letter of Intent is not a treaty between the governments of Mexico and the United States of America, nor the states of Baja California and California.

Signed February 1, 2008

Jerry Sanders
Mayor
City of San Diego

Jorge Ramos Hernández
Mayor
City of Tijuana

ⁱ San Diego Association of Governments; California Department of Transportation, District 11 "Estimating Economic Impacts of Wait Times at the San Diego-Baja California Border Region", 2006